

BIG LINER AFIRE IN MID-OCEAN; SHIPS RUSHING TO ASSIST HER

Sant Anna, With 1,700 Italian Reservists, 61 Cabin Passengers, and Crew of 175, Sends Out Wireless Call.

Spy Suspected of Setting Fire to Steamer—Aid Near, Officials of Fabre Line Are Confident.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—Several steamers are believed to be rushing to the aid of the Fabre liner Sant Anna, afire at sea, 1,000 miles due east of New York.

Between 1,600 and 1,700 Italian reservists and sixty-one other passengers, including a number of women and children, are aboard.

Officers of the Fabre line said they were positive several large liners were near Sant Anna and had caught her "S O S" They mentioned, among others, the Baltic, of the White Star line, the Cunarder Saxonia, and the White Star liner Adriatic.

The steamer is directly in the path of New York to Liverpool liners, and shipping agents are sure she will receive aid within ten or twelve hours.

The steamer carries a crew of 175 men.

ANCONA NEAR.

The Italian liner Ancona is believed to have caught the Sant Anna's wireless call for assistance, flung out late last night. The Ancona left New York for Naples last Wednesday, and is believed to have been less than 200 miles from the French steamer when the fire broke out.

Advices from Halifax received at 1 o'clock this afternoon say fifteen hours have elapsed since the Sant Anna's "S O S" was received, and that no additional messages have reached the Cape Race station.

Shipping offices early today were without advices as to the fate of the Sant Anna. No official dispatches have been received here. The wireless to the Cape Race station last night, reporting the Sant Anna "in distress, on fire, and in need of assistance," is the only information here.

In the absence of information as to the origin of the blaze, shipping agents today hinted that the fire may have been started by a spy.

Sailing Delayed.

It was recalled that the Sant Anna was to have sailed from her pier in Brooklyn for Marseilles and Naples on the afternoon of September 7, but that Captain Pavy became suspicious about something and delayed his departure until the following day. During the night the vessel was thoroughly searched.

The Sant Anna, according to her agents here, carried no munitions of war, but a large cargo of merchandise. Because she was to carry the Italian reservists, a large force of private detectives were on guard at her pier.

The Sant Anna was built in 1910 at (Continued on Second Page.)

MURDER SUSPECT COMMITS SUICIDE

Doctor, Supposed to Have Killed Girl Through Illegal Operation, Found Dead.

WAYNESBURG, Pa., Sept. 13.—Dr. J. L. Silvert, suspected of the murder of Nettie Poland, whose nude body was found in an automobile on a deserted road, was found dead in his office at Georgetown, W. Va. He had committed suicide.

Nettie Poland was the nineteen-year-old daughter of the proprietor of the Poland Hotel at Georgetown. Silvert, who boarded at the hotel, had been friendly with her several years. The automobile had been standing in the road for several hours when Hiram Stockdale, who lived nearby, went to investigate. He lifted a blanket and found the nude body of the girl. There were evidences, said authorities, of an illegal operation having been performed.

VILLA GENERAL IS EXECUTED; HALF MILLION IN LOOT SEIZED

Conventionalist Leader Orders Death of Tomas Urbina, Once Chief Aide—Charges Indiscriminate Killings.

Next Pan-American Conference Likely to Be Held Here Tomorrow—Carranza May Be Given Chance.

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Sept. 13.—Trooper Arthur Craft was killed and Sergt. Joseph Walsh and Trumpeter Forney wounded in a half hour's battle with Mexicans at the Galveston ranch this morning. One Mexican officer was killed.

Gen. Tomas Urbina has been executed by General Villa, according to a dispatch received today at the Villista junta.

Villa wired his agent in Washington that he executed Urbina at his ranch in Nieves, Durango, Saturday, both because Urbina had executed innocent persons for his own pleasure and because Urbina refused to give up property that Villa claimed.

Urbina, formerly Villa's close friend and chief military assistant, second only to Villa in command of the convention forces, is understood to have amassed \$500,000 in loot, which Villa recovered. Villa himself wired a statement regarding Urbina's death. He accused Urbina of trickery as well as of dishonesty.

BEHAVIOR INTOLERABLE.

"For some time past the behavior of Tomas Urbina has become intolerable," said Villa, "because without any scruples whatever he executed all persons who incurred his displeasure. He gave of late no account whatever to headquarters. Insubordination and cruelty and propaganda of disintegration of the convention army," were charges made by Villa against Urbina. Villa said he went to Urbina's ranch to interview him, accompanied by a bodyguard, and was fired upon by Urbina and his staff, who were entrenched in the house. Urbina's party was compelled to surrender and a court-martial and execution was held on the spot.

The next Pan-American conference on Mexico probably will be held in Washington tomorrow. Information to this effect was obtained today, following an interview which Secretary of State Lansing had with Romulo S. Nason, ambassador to the United States from Argentina.

The ambassador, who was to have sailed Wednesday for Buenos Aires on a leave of absence, announced after leaving the Secretary that he would accept his trip until the next week in order to be on hand when the conference was held.

Wilson and his advisers are again seriously considering the question of recognizing Carranza. It could not be surprising if the next Pan-American conference would bring forth a willingness on all hands to let the constitutionalist commanders have a little longer time to establish himself.

Villa's Cause Crushed.

Villa's cause, it appears now, more certain than ever, is crushed. Reports reaching the State Department today describe the Villa military forces as demoralized. At Torreón, one of the most important as well as one of the last strongholds of Villa, the northern chieftain's soldiers are throwing down their arms and refusing further to fight. At Durango the situation is pitiful. Women and children, declare the official reports, are crying in the streets for food.

The Villista forces, such as remain, are tearing up railroad tracks, using the wrecked ties as fuel for locomotives on parts of the railroads that still exist. At Durango the branch of the Bank of Chihuahua, Villa's bank of issue, has closed its doors. Northern Mexico is on the verge of ruin.

"Billy" Sunday Party

Founded in New Jersey

PASSAIC, N. J., Sept. 13.—The "Billy" Sunday Progressive party was founded last night. Its avowed object is to nominate and elect local option legislators. This ticket was named: For senator, James G. Blauvelt; assembly, Josiah Dudley, Chauncey E. Wrench, Jacob Cushman, Col. John H. Adamson, Charles C. Cooper.

Twenty-five pastors pledged support, and a mass meeting will be held tomorrow night.

"We Are All Hoping and Praying The Skies Will Clear," Says Wilson

President Wilson today made one of the most significant of his recent utterances in explaining his reason for refusing an invitation to attend at Manassas, Va., on September 30, the unveiling of a tablet to commemorate the Blue and Gray reunion there in 1911.

The President had just been reminded by a large delegation of Manassas citizens, presented to him by Congressman Carlin of Virginia, that he had promised some time ago to attend and to speak at the unveiling. Slowly and carefully, as if weighing his words, the President said:

"My thoughts are mortgaged beyond recall for the present.

"We are all hoping and praying that the skies may clear, but we have no control over that—on this side of the water, and it is impossible to predict any possible course of affairs.

"I find that it is impossible for me to make promises of the kind which you wish of me. When I made that promise of which you just reminded me, things were just beginning and a great many things have happened since which have altered not only the aspect of our own affairs but the aspect of the affairs of the world.

"My experience here day by day is that questions turn up so suddenly and have to be handled so promptly and sometimes with so much thoughtful discretion that I really dare not let my thoughts out to other matters.

"I could not come to Manassas without having something to say. It

would not be worthy of the occasion if I did not make preparation that would be worth while, and that is out of the question.

"I feel very much attracted by this invitation. It has a poetic value in the extraordinary circumstance of these two armies coming together in the most fraternal relations which once met each other in strife on that battlefield. It will be an occasion of inspiration, but I simply feel that I have forfeited my liberty for the present and that my nearest duty is the most obvious and imperative.

"I have been obliged to say this to all invitations, however tempting in character, and I would not be worthy of your trust if I did not come to such a conclusion, because I know that you want these international matters taken care of as best we know how and I ought not to send my thoughts afield."

EVEN THE CHAPLAIN AT ANNAPOLIS GOES

Prof. H. E. Smith Also Withdrawn in Sweeping Shake-up by Secretary Daniels.

ANNAPOLIS, Sept. 13.—With the detachment of Prof. H. E. Smith, head of the department of mathematics at the Naval Academy, and Chaplain W. G. Cassard, no room for doubt is left that it is the intention of Secretary of the Navy Daniels to secure the transfer of many of the officers who were connected with the administration of the academy, and who retired from the academy on September 30.

Neither Prof. Smith, who is a graduate of the Naval Academy, or Chaplain Cassard, had anything to do with incidents which gave rise to the recent "cribbing" investigation.

Prof. Smith, however, was a witness before the court, and in his testimony he testified that he considered that the interference of high officials had injured the standard at the Academy. He cited the fact that President Roosevelt had issued an order lowering the passing mark of one examination so that a number of midshipmen, who had failed, remained in the Academy, and that a Secretary of the Navy had taken similar action.

Chaplain Cassard had no connection with the matters investigated by the court, yet was not even called as a witness. Representative Carlin, counsel for the midshipmen, criticized Chaplain Cassard's withdrawal from the investigation to a newspaper in which he supported the administration of Admiral Cullum, and criticized attempts to interfere with affairs at the Academy. It is believed by some that this may have had something to do with his transfer to other duties.

'Courtesy' Is Slogan Of Park Police

"Courtesy" is to be the watchword among the park policemen in Washington.

This point was emphasized in a special order addressed to all members of the park police, by Col. W. W. Harts, in charge of public buildings and grounds.

In his letter, Colonel Harts said: "While regulations must be strictly enforced, and patience, members of the park police force are reminded that courtesy always must be used in carrying them out. Members of the force should remember that they are constantly making a better reputation for the park police, and that they are assisting the administration of the parks materially by showing courtesy in all their dealings with the public."

In an explanation of this order, Colonel Harts adds that his office will be glad to be informed of any infraction of courtesy on the part of park police.

Bulgarian Reservists in Italy Called to Colors

GENEVA, Sept. 13.—Belief that Bulgaria may enter the war on the side of Austria and Germany was strengthened today by the news that Bulgarian reservists in Italy are being recalled to the colors. German newspapers received here hint at Bulgaria's abandonment of her neutrality in the near future.

Slashed During Fight, Victim Slightly Improved

Slight improvement is reported by the Casualty Hospital physicians today in the condition of Edgar D. James, of Kensington, who received a deep cut in his left side Sunday morning during a fight with two colored men at Four-and-a-half street and Maine avenue southwest.

Two colored men arrested a short time after the stabbing are being held at the Fourth precinct.

Inspector of Detectives Grant has the coat which James wore at the time he was cut, and it has a slash in it extending almost from the back of the collar to the front of the left-hand pocket.

BERNSTORFF VISIT BRINGS RELATIONS NEARER TO CRISIS

"There Will Be No Breach With United States If I Can Prevent" Ambassador Asserts, After Conference With Secretary Lansing.

EXPLAINS POSITION OF GERMANY

Arbitration of Arabic Controversy Not Determined Upon—Secretary Lansing Will Not Discuss Conference—Wants Wilson Audience.

History-making conferences over the submarine warfare issue between the United States and Germany were held today. On these conferences hangs the question of an adjustment with the German government or breaking of relations and probable war.

Secretary of State Lansing went to the White House at 10:30 o'clock and remained for forty minutes in earnest consultation with the President. At the close of the conference, he asserted that there had been no decision as to arbitration of the Arabic case.

At noon Ambassador von Bernstorff, by appointment, saw Secretary Lansing. The two had a protracted talk over the Arabic case, the general question of submarine warfare and, it is understood, the case of Captain von Papen, German military attache.

It developed also that Ambassador von Bernstorff desired an audience with President Wilson. The President was apprised, through friends of the ambassador, of this desire for a personal conference.

ENVOY IS HOPEFUL.

At the close of a conference of a half hour with Secretary of State Lansing, Ambassador von Bernstorff, in response to questions whether there was hope of a solution of the controversy between the United States and Germany, said that no impasse had been reached.

The ambassador was serious and studious, but apparently was hopeful.

"So far as I am concerned," he declared, "there will never be a break between the two countries. I have always been optimistic. Diplomacy has so many resources that I have never seen reason to be pessimistic."

The ambassador left the department and, after posing for the camera men under a boiling sun, climbed into his machine and drove to the embassy. He would not say whether he expected arbitration, and declared anything given out must come from Secretary Lansing.

Secretary Lansing left the department for lunch a little before 1 o'clock. He refused to make any statement about the visit of the German ambassador. From the fact that he seemed under less strain and tension than earlier in the day, the impression was gathered that the German controversy had become less grave in aspect. But whether arbitration had been decided on or whether the controversy was headed in that direction, the Secretary would not say.

ADMINISTRATION SEEKS LIGHT.

It became known that the Administration desired to be specific and clear on just what was to be arbitrated. This phase of the matter was talked over today between the Secretary and the ambassador.

From high and absolutely reliable sources, it was learned just before the conference, that the envoy's visit was not to smooth out the roughness of the Arabic note, but was in effect to serve a warning.

It is understood that he served notice that unless Great Britain withdrew its orders to commanders of merchant men to ram U-boats on all occasions, "mistakes" like the sinking of the Arabic would continue to occur.

The State Department was also given to understand that Germany looks to the United States to undertake to obtain such a disavowal from the British as a means, ac-

HILL TAKES HAND IN BIGGEST WAR LOAN

Railroad Financier Said to Favor Proposal to Help Russia, France, and England.

NEW YORK, Sept. 13.—With the arrival here today of James J. Hill, railroad financier, the Anglo-French-American capitalists, with J. P. Morgan, began formal negotiations for the consummation of the biggest loan the world has ever seen. None of the members of the conference would discuss the probable amount, but estimates in financial circles run all the way from \$500,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000.

Hill said that his friends to be heartily in favor of the loan. He believes, it is said, that if it does not go through, the United States is going to find one of her banner crop years, one of her worst, because, unless the European nations are supplied with money, they cannot make purchases.

Just what form the loan will take is unknown, but it is hinted that a syndicate of bankers, embracing every part of the United States, will underwrite the loan and offer it to the public at a rate of interest, probably 5 per cent. The notes would be secured by the French, English, and Russian governments.

Sentiment in banking circles today was that if the United States doesn't come to the aid of the financially embarrassed nations, South America probably will.

"We want to keep this great trade which we have built up during this war," said one banker. "It goes without saying that if the allies can borrow here, the more they will buy here."

Today's meeting was attended by prominent bankers from coast to coast.

ZEPPELINS IN RAID ON BRITISH COAST

Bombs Dropped, But Only Damage Is to Telegraph Wires. No Casualties Reported.

LONDON, Sept. 13.—Zeppelins raided the east coast Sunday night. It was officially reported here today. The Press Bureau states that there were no casualties.

Bombs were dropped, the Press Bureau stated, but the only damage done was the breaking down of telegraph wires and the smashing of window glass.

This is the fifth Zeppelin raid on England since last Tuesday night. Zeppelins bombarded London on Tuesday and Wednesday night, and made another attack Wednesday night on Norfolk and Middlesex, northeastern England, these raids resulting in the loss of thirty-seven lives, and the wounding of more than 100 persons.

The German airship attacked the east coast of England again Saturday night, but an official statement from the Press Bureau yesterday said there were no casualties. The latest raid on England probably occurred very late last night.

The above dispatch to the United Press was filed in London at 4 p. m.